

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /075 W
----- 039322

R 100745Z SEPT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8044

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4477

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, BG

SUBJ: ANSWERING MILITARY GRIEVANCES

1. IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 8 AND MODIFIED THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE NEW REGIME HAS DECIDED TO REVIEW ALL CASES OF "PREMATURE RETIREMENT AND ARBITRARY REMOVAL" AFFECTING BANGLADESH'S MILITARY SERVICES SINCE DECEMBER, 1971. THE MOSHTAQUE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SAID THAT "OBSERVING THE NEGLECT AND DISPARAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE SERVICES OVER THE LAST THREE AND HALF YEARS, (IT) HAS EXPRESSED ITS DETERMINATION TO REMOVE THE EFFECTS OF SUCH NEGLECT, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE COUNTRY'S RESOURCES, AND TO ACCORD THEM A PLACE OF HONOR SUCH AS OWED TO THOSE WHO VALIANTLY FOUGHT THE LIBERATION WAR. CONCURRENTLY, ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING THEM WITH SUCH

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FRINGE BENEFITS AS ARE WITHIN OUR MEANS."

2. COMMENT: THE DECISION TO REVIEW EARLY RETIREMENTS AND ARBITRARY REMOVALS WILL PERMIT THE REDRESS OF NUMEROUS GRIEVANCES. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND FOLLOWING THE REPATRIATION OF OFFICERS HELD IN PAKISTAN BETWEEN 1971 AND 1973, MANY OFFICERS WERE ABRUPTLY AND UNWARRANTEDLY REMOVED FROM SERVICE. AND, OF COURSE, THE ORDER PAVES THE WAY FOR THE RESORTATION TO SERVICE OF MAJOR DALIM AND BROTHER OFFICERS OUSTED IN 1974. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE PROCESS OF REVIEW FOR THE AGGRIEVED MILITARY WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AUTOMATICALLY, IN THE CASE OF CIVIL SERVANTS SIMILARLY OUSTED THEY MUST PETITION FOR REVIEW AND REINSTATEMENT (DACCA 4194).

3. THE REFERENCE IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO "REMOVING EFFECTS OF NEGLECT" AND PROVIDING FRINGE BENEFITS" MAY BE VIEWED IN LESS CHARITABLE FASHION. THE DEFENSE SERVICES ARE GENERALLY DEEMED TO HAVE RECEIVED LESS FAVORABLE TREATMENT THAN MUJIB'S RAKKI BAHINI BUT THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THIS EXTENDED TO PAY AND PERQUISITES. GIVEN BANGLADESH'S TRANSCENDING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, TOO GENEROUS TREATMENT OF THE MILITARY WILL RAISE SUSPICION THAT THE MILITARY PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON ITS OWN CONCERNS THAN ON THOSE OF THE NATION.
BOSTER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA04477
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750313-0055
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750998/aaaagxzw.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971022
Subject: ANSWERING MILITARY GRIEVANCES
TAGS: MILI, PINT, BG, MILI, PINT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006